Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 18 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 19 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 18 Mar 2023 at 02:22

Confidence: High for showery conditions on Saturday then dry and settled weather daytime on Sunday. Turning more unsettled again from Sunday evening onwards but some uncertainty in track and timings of weather fronts.

Headline for Saturday 18 Mar 2023: Some low cloud but also bright spells and showers. Light winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 18 Mar 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Light rain	Fog	Cloudy	Light rain	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
20%	20%	10%	10%	60%	<05%

Forecast for Saturday 18 Mar 2023

Weather: Cloudy and misty to start the morning with low cloud and a few showers. Showers dying out through the morning then some bright spells developing in the afternoon, mainly over fells east of Helvellyn and around Ullswater. The odd shower developing in the afternoon, but many places staying dry. A band of showery rain will spread east through the evening then dry overnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20%, becoming 60% across eastern fells.

Low cloud and visibility: Areas of low cloud and fog down to low slopes at first. Cloud base gradually lifting through the morning, especially across eastern fells but fells further west remaining in cloud for most of the day with good navigation skills required. Away from low cloud, generally good visibility but dropping to a few km in any showers.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 18 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	13/16 S	15/18 S	12/16 SW	14/18 SW	17/21 W	21/27 NW	22/28 NW
600	13/17 S	13/15 SW	11/14 SW	11/15 SW	14/19 W	20/27 NW	17/24 NW
300	4/12 S	6/13 S	6/12 SW	5/12 SW	8/16 W	12/24 NW	8/22 NW
Valley	2/10 S	4/9 SW	5/9 SW	5/11 SW	7/14 W	11/23 NW	7/19 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	5/1	5/0	5/1	5/0	4/-2	1/-5	0/-6
600	6/3	6/3	6/3	6/3	5/1	3/-3	2/-3
300	7/6	8/6	8/6	8/7	7/4	5/1	4/1
Valley	8/8	9/8	9/8	9/8	8/6	7/4	6/4
Freezing Level*	1700m	1600m	1500m	1500m	1600m	1100m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A mild and rather humid feeling day with valley temperatures reaching 12 or 13 Celsius in the afternoon.

Forecast for Sunday 19 Mar 2023

Weather: Showers clearing overnight then clear spells with a touch of frost in some valleys. A dry day with sunny spells and light winds giving good hill walking conditions. Turning cloudy from the west during the afternoon then outbreaks of rain, falling as sleet or snow above 800m, will spread eastwards during the evening.

Maximum wind: West or Northwest 15mph gusts 25mph early in morning, easing to 10-15mph, becoming Southerly 15mph gusts 25mph during evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90%, becoming 30% during the evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Patchy summits cloud at first will soon clear to leave excellent visibility across all fells. Low cloud and fog becoming persistent above 600m during the evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1C rising to 8C.
At 800m: Plus 1C.
Freezing level: 900m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Friday 17 March 2023.
Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:30
Temperature: Plus 4.1 C,
Maximum wind speed 27.8 mph,
Wind chill: minus 3.1 C, Average wind speed: 22.3 mph

Full report: Underfoot conditions have changed dramatically on the fells over the past 48 hours owing to a turbo thaw. The vast majority of the Lakeland fells and paths up to, and including, summit level are now clear of snow and ice. Insignificant patches of wet snow can be found from 500m with most snow now above 850m and the vast majority above 900m. The snow is located in sheltered spots and hollows and on steep slopes, predominantly those facing north and south of east. Most of the snow encountered today was wet and thawing in the plus 4 degrees C summit temperature and drizzle/dampness within the cloud. There were, though, isolated patches of old, harder snow and ice which will take longer to thaw; however they were either easy to avoid or in locations that walkers are unlikely to venture. Steep and exposed routes on the high fells, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, require care owing to the damp, slippery rock and patches of remaining snow. These consisted of wet snow today, but it would only take a slight drop in temperature for these to harden and ice to reform. Although this is not currently forecast to happen, walkers attempting such routes should be prepared for this eventuality. With the dramatic recent rise in temperature, there is now a significant contrast between the warmth of the sheltered valleys and the exposed high fells where the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) around midday remained below freezing (at minus 3 degrees). Thus for those venturing on the high fells full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves) mountain boots and equipment - including a torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility – all remain essential both for safety and for enjoying the experience.
Issued at: 02:22 on Sat 18 Mar 2023

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